

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-16 as follows (the changes in these Claims are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underlines for added matter). Please add new claim 17. A complete listing of the claims with proper claim identifiers is set forth below.

1. (Currently amended) A polypeptide ~~described in the following (a) or (b)~~ having:
 - (a) ~~a polypeptide, which has the~~ an amino acid sequence shown in of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~of the sequence listing~~; or
 - (b) ~~a polypeptide, which has~~ an amino acid sequence resulting from substitution, insertion, deletion, and/or addition of one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence shown in of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~of the sequence listing~~, and which wherein the polypeptide has amidase activity.
2. (Currently amended) The polypeptide according to claim 1, ~~which~~ wherein the polypeptide is derived from a microorganism belonging to genus *Arthrobacter*.
3. (Original) The polypeptide according to claim 2, wherein the microorganism is *Arthrobacter* sp. KNK1101J (FERM BP-10192).
4. (Currently amended) A DNA, ~~which encodes~~ encoding the polypeptide according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ of claim 1.
5. (Currently amended) A DNA ~~described in any one of the following (c) to (e)~~ having:
 - (a) ~~DNA, which has the~~ a nucleotide sequence shown in of SEQ ID NO: 3 ~~of the sequence listing~~;
 - (b) ~~DNA, which~~ a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions with a DNA having a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to the nucleotide sequence shown in of SEQ ID NO: 3 ~~of the sequence listing under stringent~~

conditions, and ~~which~~ wherein the DNA encodes a polypeptide having amidase activity;
and

(c) ~~DNA, which has~~ a nucleotide sequence resulting from substitution, insertion, deletion, and/or addition of one or more nucleotides in ~~the a~~ a nucleotide sequence ~~shown in of SEQ ID NO: 3 of the sequence listing, and which,~~ wherein the DNA encodes a polypeptide having amidase activity.

6. (Currently amended) A recombinant plasmid, ~~which is obtained by insertion of the DNA according to claim 4 or 5 into~~ comprising the DNA of claim 5 and a vector.

7. (Original) The recombinant plasmid according to claim 6, wherein the vector is pUC18, pUC19, pBR322, pACYC184, pSC101, pT7Blue, or pUCNT.

8. (Currently amended) The recombinant plasmid according to claim 6 ~~or 7, which wherein the plasmid is~~ PHA002 specified in the restriction map shown in Figure 2.

9. (Currently amended) A transformant, ~~which~~ wherein the transformant is obtained by transformation of a host microorganism with the recombinant plasmid according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6.

10. (Original) The transformant according to claim 9, wherein the host microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.

11. (Currently amended) The transformant according to claim 9, ~~which is~~ wherein the transformant is *Escherichia coli* HB101 (PHA002) (FERM BP-10193).

12. (Currently amended) A An isolated microorganism, ~~which is able to produce wherein the isolated microorganism produces~~ the polypeptide according to claim 1 and belongs to genus *Arthrobacter*.

13. (Currently amended) The isolated microorganism according to claim 12, ~~which is the isolated microorganism being~~ *Arthrobacter* sp. KNK1101J (FERM BP-10192) or a mutant thereof.
14. (Currently amended) A method for producing amidase, comprising
culturing a microorganism that is able to produce the polypeptide
according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1,
accumulating said polypeptide in the culture, and
collecting it said polypeptide.
15. (Currently amended) The ~~production~~ method according to claim 14, wherein the microorganism is the transformant according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~ claim 9.
16. (Currently amended) The ~~production~~ method according to claim 14, wherein the microorganism is the microorganism according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~.
17. (New) A recombinant plasmid comprising the DNA of claim 4 and a vector.

CLAIM STATUS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-16 are amended. New claim 17 is added.

Amendments to Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11, and 14-16 relate to form and/or grammar only for the purpose of increasing the clarity of each. Support for amendment to claims 12 and 13 may be found throughout the specification, including at page 5, lines 5-13.

Support for new claim 17, may be found throughout the specification, including original claim 6.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-17 are pending.